

Let us recommit ourselves to the slow and painstaking work of statecraft, which sees peace, not war as being inevitable.

Let us work for a world where someday war becomes archaic.

That is the vision which the proposal to create a Department of Peace envisions. Forty-three members of Congress are now cosponsoring the legislation. Let us work for a world where nuclear disarmament is an imperative. That is why we must begin by insisting on the commitments of the ABM treaty. That is why we must be steadfast for nonproliferation.

Let us work for a world where America can lead the day in banning weapons of mass destruction not only from our land and sea and sky but from outer space itself. That is the vision of H.R. 3616: A universe free of fear. Where we can look up at God's creation in the stars and imagine infinite wisdom, infinite peace, infinite possibilities, not infinite war, because we are taught that the kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.

Let us pray that we have the courage to replace the images of death which haunt us, the layers of images of September 11th, faded into images of patriotism, spliced into images of military mobilization, jump-cut into images of our secular celebrations of the World Series, New Year's Eve, the Superbowl, the Olympics, the strobic flashes which touch our deepest fears, let us replace those images with the work of human relations, reaching out to people, helping our own citizens here at home, lifting the plight of the poor everywhere.

That is the America which has the ability to rally the support of the world.

That is the America which stands not in pursuit of an axis of evil, but which is itself at the axis of hope and faith and peace and freedom. America, America. God shed grace on thee. Crown thy good, America.

Not with weapons of mass destruction. Not with invocations of an axis of evil. Not through breaking international treaties. Not through establishing America as king of a unipolar world. Crown thy good, America. America, America. Let us pray for our country. Let us love our country. Let us defend our country not only from the threats without but from the threats within.

Crown thy good, America. Crown thy good with brotherhood, and sisterhood. And crown thy good with compassion and restraint and forbearance and a commitment to peace, to democracy, to economic justice here at home and throughout the world.

Crown thy good, America. Crown thy good America. Crown thy good.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARILYN BEAVAIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to a wonderful woman and true caretaker of the community. Sister Marilyn Beavais of Pueblo, Colorado has dedicated her life to assisting others in times of hardship and great need. This year as she celebrates her fiftieth year as a nun and forty-seventh as a nurse, I would like to highlight her accomplishments and kind heart before this body of Congress.

Last year, after a lifetime of volunteering for her community and its residents, Sister Marilyn retired from public service. She had been active with providing support and assistance to those in need through a wonderful organization known as Pueblo Services for Empowerment and Transformation for Well-Being. This organization, through efforts of volunteers like Sister Marilyn, has taught the less fortunate important skills and attitudes to improve their current standards of living. As a result of their kindness, many people today can credit the organization with providing the tools to improve their lives.

Since retirement, Sister Marilyn still maintains an active schedule and now spends her time volunteering for St-Mary-Corwin's Good-Medicine program. This program assists the community with general healthcare screenings and checkups to ensure a healthy population throughout the area. Her nursing and gentle disposition are a vital contribution to helping those in need, and I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Marilyn Beavais embodies the spirit of kindness and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. She has helped many individuals in need over the years and I am proud to represent her in my district. Sister Marilyn has been a model citizen to the community and I extend my thanks to her and her efforts, and am proud to bring her accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress. Keep up the good work Sister Marilyn, and good luck in your future endeavors.

CONDEMNATION OF CHURCH BOMBING IN ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and communities of the Americans, Pakistanis, Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis, Ethiopians, Sri Lankans, British, Swiss, Germans, Australians, and Canadians who were killed or wounded in the barbaric church bombing in Islamabad, Pakistan on Sunday, March 17, 2002. I commend President Bush for his statement that we will bring those responsible to justice and I look forward to his action against the perpetrators. And, I greatly appreciate President Musharraf's condemnation and subsequent action to find and punish the criminals.

Men who seek to murder peaceful religious believers, particularly in the midst of their service of worship of God, reveal the depth of their uncivilized, brutal nature. Once again, extremists are using violence to attempt to intimidate people and gain power. These criminals who murder in cold blood, just like those who attacked the peaceful Pakistani worshippers in October of last year, must be brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to those families and their loved ones. To the families and friends of those killed, please know that our hearts and prayers are with you in this time of suffering and mourning. The Americans killed and wounded in Pakistan were

there to serve our nation and to serve people in Pakistan and the surrounding nations through their work in our Embassy or through NGOs. They are to be applauded and commended for their sacrificial service during this time of great difficulty in our world. And, they are to be admired for they have now paid the ultimate price for their service—they have given their lives.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS FOR WOMEN ACT OF 2002

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, this month is Women's History Month. In considering the integral role women have played in making America the great nation it is today and their daily contributions to the growth of our economy and the stability of American families, we are reminded yet again how important it is to ensure Social Security will continue to provide the economic security women need and deserve after a lifetime of sacrifice and hard work.

In looking at Social Security's history, it is no wonder it is so important to women. The first woman to serve as a Presidential Cabinet Member-Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins—was Chairwoman of the committee that designed Social Security, and the first beneficiary to receive a monthly benefit was also a woman—Ilda May Fuller.

Social Security's lifetime inflation-adjusted benefits, spouse and survivor benefits, and progressive benefit formula provide critical protections for women, because they live longer, earn less, take time away from the workforce to care for kids, and have less pension and asset income than men. Without Social Security, more than half of elderly women would live in poverty.

Although Social Security has successfully provided an effective safety net for two-thirds of a century, Social Security is facing serious financial challenges. Beginning in 2016, payroll taxes won't be enough to cover promised benefit payments and Social Security will call on the Treasury to make good on its obligations to the trust funds. Soon thereafter, payroll taxes taken out of the wages of our hard-working kids and grandkids will be the only source of revenue—and they will cover only 73% of benefits, and even less than that in future years. If we fail to enact a plan to save Social Security, the consequences would be devastating for millions of Americans, especially women.

For these reasons, restoring Social Security's solvency for the 21st century and beyond is a national priority for the public, Congress, and the President. We need to stop poisoning the well of bipartisanship, set aside political demagoguery, and fulfill our duty as Members of Congress by working together toward this goal. We can start building a foundation of common ground by taking a modest step to enhance Social Security benefits for women, without jeopardizing the financial position of the trust funds.

I've worked with the Social Security Administration to identify potential enhancements